

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ink-jet printing apparatus for carrying out
the printing operation by using printing means for ejecting
5 ink, comprising:

recovery means for recovering the ink ejection of the
printing means in a favorable state by receiving ink from
the printing means; and

10 ink-retaining means for absorbing and retaining the
ink received in the recovery means and discharged from a
discharging portion thereof through a flow passage;
wherein

15 said recovery means and said ink-retaining means are
disposed approximately at the same height when said ink-jet
printing apparatus is in the posture to be used, and said
flow passage is formed as a sealed space except for portions
connected to said discharging portion of said recovery
means and to said ink-retaining means; said flow passage
being provided with an absorber while remaining a gap from
20 said discharging portion to said ink-retaining means.

2. An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim
1, wherein said ink-retaining means has a container sealed
except for portions to be connected to said flow passage
25 and communicated with outer air, and an absorber
accommodated in said container.

3. An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim
2, wherein a continuous space is formed between the
portions to be connected to said flow passage and
communicated with outer air; said space passing by the
5 outer surface of said accommodated absorber in the interior
of said container.

4. An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim
3, wherein said continuous space is connected and
10 contiguous to said gap of said flow passage at a portion
connected to said flow passage.

5. An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim
4, wherein said continuous space is formed to be narrower
15 from the portion connected to said flow passage to the
portion communicated with outer air.

6. An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim
2, wherein said absorber disposed in said flow passage is
20 connected to said absorber accommodated in said container.

7. An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim
1, wherein said flow passage is integral with said recovery
means.

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8. An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim
7, wherein said recovery means comprises a pump for

forcibly expelling ink by the application of a suction force to an ink-ejection portion of said printing means, and said flow passage is integral with a base for supporting said pump to connect a discharging port of said pump with
5 said ink-retaining means.